GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2855
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2005
ARMS LICENCE
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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Arms licences issued in Delhi during each of the last three years and thereafter till date;

(b) the criteria followed for grant of such licenes;

(c) the total number of Arms licence in Delhi which have all India validity;

(d) the criteria for validation of Arms licenes from Delhi to other States and vice-versa and all India level;

(e) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding irregularity in issuing All India Arms Licences from Delhi;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a): The details are given below:

Year	Number of licences for Non-prohibited Bore weapons issued by Delhi Police	Number of licences for Prohibited Bore weapons issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs
2002	1442	15
2003	1304	16
2004	1230	4
2005 (upto 9th March)	198	2

(b): The criteria for issue of arms licences include checking of criminal antecedents of the applicant; genuineness of the need for acquiring a weapon and threat perception. Grant of fresh licences for possession of prohibited Bore (PB) weapons is restricted to the following categories:

(i) defence personnel who were allotted such weapons prior to 25th June, 1982;

(ii) transfer of weapon on the ground of their being in long possession of the family treating them as family heirlooms; and

(iii) persons who are facing grave and imminent threat to their lives particularly from terrorists and subversive elements.

(c): There are 31902 arms licenses in Delhi, which have all India validity.

(d): As per Rules 53 (1) of the Arms Rules, 1962, on receipt of an application from a licence holder, a lincecing authority may extend the area of validity specified in his licence, if he is satisfied about the need of such extension, subject to the condition that the concerned authority has the power to grant a licence in relation to the area to which extension is sought. As per the guidelines issued by the Government, all-India lecences as a rule shall be granted in very rare cases. The few exceptions where consideration could be given would comprise the following categories:

(i) Ministers and Members of Parliament:

(ii) Serving Officers of Defence Services, Police and para-military organizations and officers of Government having liability to serve anywhere in India; and

(iii) Members of recognized Rifle Clubs and Rifle Associations for bona fide Sports and Games.

(e) to (g): References were received from some Members of Parliament regarding extension of area validity of the arms licence held by the private secretary of a Member of parliament. On examination of the matter, it was found that the holder of the arms licence in this case was not eligible for grant of all-India extension as per the guidelines issued by the Government. Therefore, his case was rejected and the Members of Parliament concerned was informed accordingly.